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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 10, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Local School District Superintendents

From: Mike Flanagan 

Subject: Michigan Reads!

An exciting opportunity regarding Michigan Reads! One State, One Children's Book is detailed in the attached memo from the State Librarian, Nancy R. Robertson. The Michigan Department of Education has partnered with Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) and we want you to be alerted to the distribution of the book and program kit to school districts with Kindergarten through Second Grade classrooms. Michigan School Readiness Programs, Head Start Programs, and public libraries will also receive the books and program kits.

Since the expected date of delivery to schools will be the first part of August, the plan is to send these kits to the administrative offices of each school district because there is some question about school buildings being closed at that time in August. Specific timing will be forwarded when it is known. Be looking for information and please share information with those who need to know.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES
LANSING

DR. WILLIAM M. ANDERSON
DIRECTOR

April 27, 2007

To All Public Libraries, Head Start Programs, Michigan School Readiness Programs, and Public Schools with grades K-2:

Michigan Reads!, our One State, One Children's Book program for Michigan, will launch at the end of August 2007. We will be sending out program kits to each public library outlet, Head Start Program, Michigan School Readiness Program, and public school serving grades K-2, so you will have them on-hand by mid-August.

Each kit will contain a copy of the selected book:

Big Chickens

by Leslie Helakoski; illustrated by Henry Cole
Dutton/Penguin, 2006

A delightful romp following four chickens as they conquer fear and discover their "chicken power!"

Also in each kit will be a programming guide full of ideas and sample programs to present to children by age group, information on early childhood literacy and why these activities make such a difference in a child's future capacity to learn, a poster announcing the program, and a set of giveaways (probably stickers).

We will update the Michigan Reads! website shortly with more information on the 2007 program. Our generous sole corporate sponsor, Target, will be launching a print media campaign for Michigan Reads! this summer.

The kick-off for the program will be held at the Target Book Festival, presented by the Detroit Free Press (Yak's Corner), at the Kensington Metropark on August 25, 2007. Target is inviting the author and illustrator to this event and is also looking into transportation from area libraries and/or Target stores.

We are working with the author of the book, Leslie Helakoski, to schedule her for library and school visits around the state to take place in September (Back-to-School and Library Card Sign-up Month).

See the Michigan Reads! website (<http://michigan.gov/michiganreads>) for regularly updated information.

Yours truly,

Nancy R. Robertson, State Librarian